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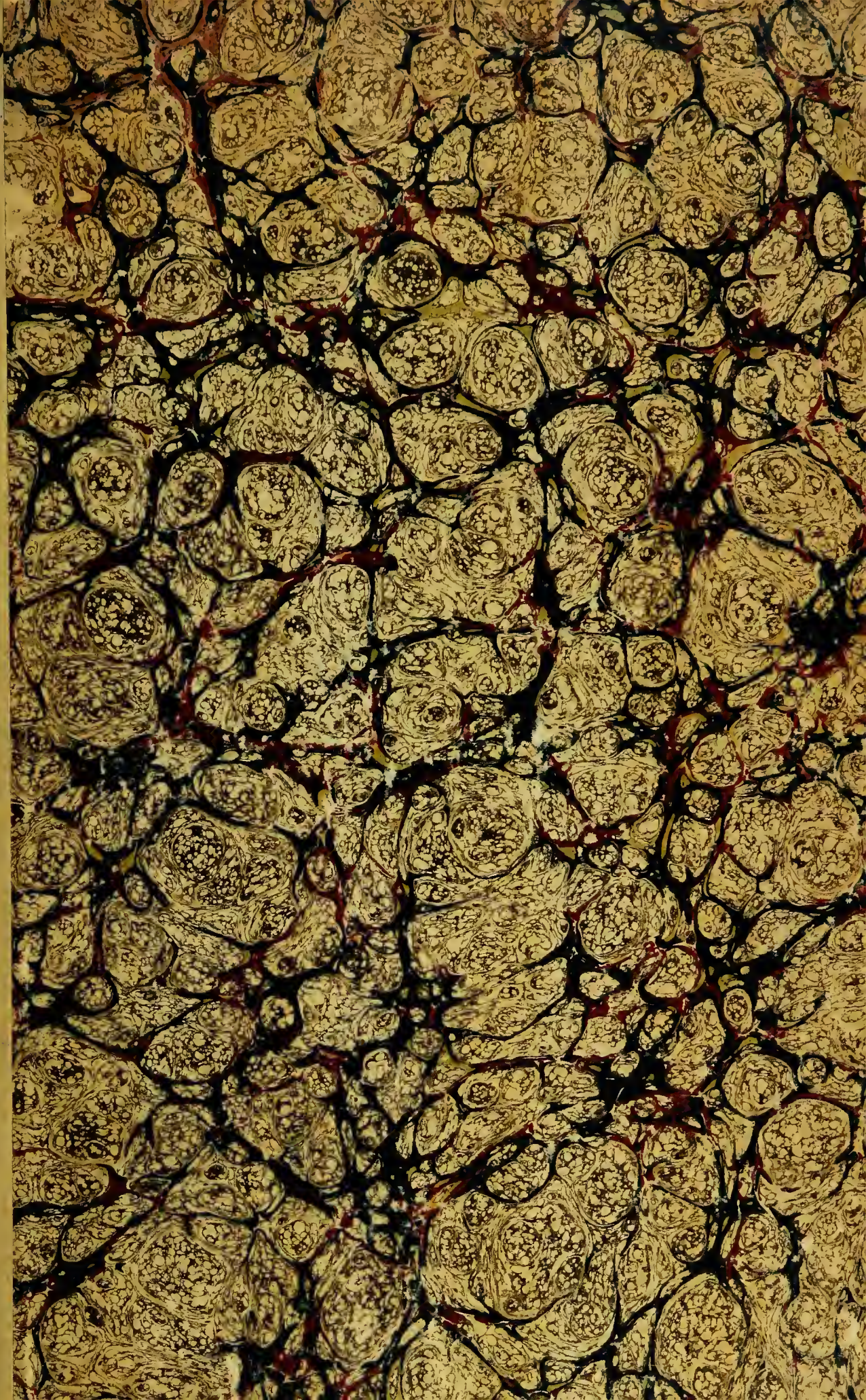

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WINNERS OF FIRST PRIZE EXHIBITION PEN, BLACK ORPINGTONS.
AT BOSTON POULTRY SHOW, JANUARY 11-15, 1910

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STANDARD-BRED

ORPINGTONS

Black, Buff and White

Their Practical Qualities; The Standard Requirements; How to Judge Them; How to Mate and Breed for Best Results, With a Chapter on New Non-Standard Varieties

J. H. DREVENSTEDT, Editor

CONTRIBUTED TO BY THE BEST KNOWN AND MOST EXPERT BREEDERS AND JUDGES IN AMERICA

FULLY ILLUSTRATED

Text and Illustrations are Based on the Requirements of the 1910 Edition of the American Standard of Perfection

PRICE, SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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1911

The Orpingtons

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INTRODUCTORY

THIS BREED BOOK, devoted to the Orpington race of domesticated poultry, is the first and most complete of its kind published in America. England has produced many Standard-bred varieties of superior merit and surpassing beauty in the past, but we have no hesitation in stating that its newest production, the Orpington, is the most universally popular breed ever originated in Great Britain. Not only in England, but in Australia, Canada, and the United States as well, are Orpingtons enjoying unbounded popularity. The intrinsic merit of the Orpington fowl for utilitarian purposes, its commanding size and solid type, combined with beauty of plumage, are invaluable assets that assure its permanent popularity.

That a book giving an authentic history of the origin of the Orpington, its development as a Standard-bred fowl, its value as a layer and meat producer, and a description of its fine exhibition points, with proper illustrations for mating, breeding and judging all varieties of Orpingtons, is needed, is obvious.

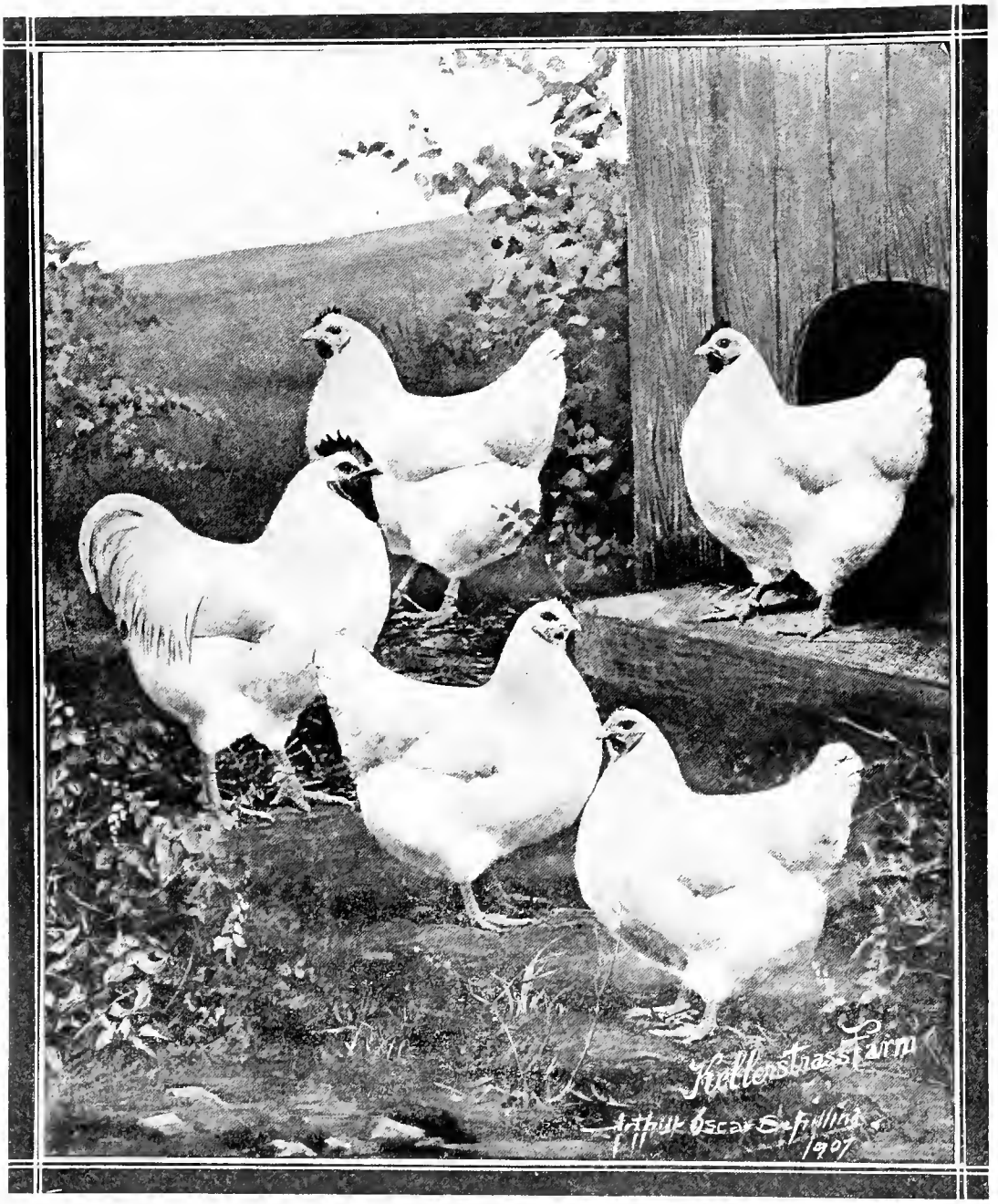
In undertaking the task of compiling a book of this character, I did it with a feeling of a responsibility greater perhaps than the results may show, but readers can rest assured that a careful research has been made into the history of the breed from its origin to its final development into three Standard and eight non-Standard varieties. For most of the important data relating to the above I am indebted to the Lewis Wright's "Book of Poultry," E. Campbell's book, "The Orpington And Its Varieties," both standard English works; also to letters and articles written by the originator, William Cook, Captain Gedney, Harrison Weir, Wallace P. Willett, and others.

To the Reliable Poultry Journal, American Poultry World, D. E. Hale, A. O. Schilling, and many prominent American breeders of Orpingtons grateful acknowledgment is due for their valuable contributions to the different chapters of this book. Special attention is directed to the beautiful illustrations by Franklane L. Sewell, Arthur O. Schilling and I. W. Burgess. This art work is one of the great features of this book, unrivalled and unapproachable in beauty of design and finish.

Having made a study of the Orpington fowl as a judge at the earlier exhibits held at Madison Square Garden Shows, New York, and at other large shows in the East, South and Canada up to the present day, the task has been a congenial one and the conclusions arrived at are the result of an impartial judgment of the facts as they appeared to me. That "The Orpingtons" will prove a valuable aid to breeders of one of the most popular breeds in the world is the sincere wish of the undersigned.

J. H. DREVENSTEDT.

New York, 1910.



THE FAMOUS PEN OF WHITE ORPINGTONS SOLD FOR $7,500.00 TO MADAME PADEREWSKI BY THE KELLERSTRASS FARM.

CHAPTER I

Orpington Origin

Authentic History of the Origin of Black, White, Buff, Spangled and Jubilee Orpingtons—Black Orpington First Produced and Exhibited in America in 1890—Claims of Other Originators in Producing Buff and White Orpingtons—History of the Different English Strains of the Three Standard and the Eight Non-Standard Varieties of Orpingtons

J. H. Drevenstedt

TWENTY years ago Orpingtons were exhibited in America for the first time, the Single Comb Black Orpington being the original variety shown. It was the first of a distinctly new breed of fowl originated in 1886 by William Cook of Orpington, County of Kent, England, whence Orpingtons take their name. Being "English, you know," it took American poultry breeders some years to become interested and enthusiastic over Orpingtons. Objections to fowls with black legs and white skin were lodged against Black Orpingtons and later the white or pink legs and white skin of Buff and White Orpingtons was considered a serious market handicap, as American markets demanded yellow-skinned and yellow-legged poultry. So the doom of the Orpingtons was predicted before breeders on this side of the Atlantic became acquainted with the good qualities of this new English race of fowl, or realized that a master hand at promoting and advertising new breeds was at work in England, Australia and America, boosting the breed he originated, by lavish use of printer's ink which included much free advertising for himself—for the originator was a clever writer on poultry topics, as well as a very shrewd breeder and dealer. The superior qualities of his Orpingtons were "laid on with a thick brush," the defects he kept in the background. The result of all these persistent and insistent claims of superiority over all other breeds is that Orpingtons are today the most popular fowl in England and have made such rapid strides toward popularity in this country, notably in White Orpingtons, that they have become dangerous rivals of the American Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and Leghorns. The originator, William Cook, died in 1904, at a time when Orpingtons were beginning to boom rapidly, thanks to the late and lamented Mr. Cook and the hustling and able efforts of Wallace P. Willett of East Orange, N. J., editor and publisher of "The Orpington." This was before the day of Owen Farms, Ernest Kellerstrass and other "big guns" of the Orpington fancy of today, Charles Vass, Dr. Paul Kyle, Wallace P. Willett, Frank W. Gaylor and William Davis being the pioneers in the early Buff Orpington days; but when Mr. Cook appeared at the Madison Square Garden, New York, in 1903 with a great string of English Orpingtons and received fulsome press notices in the daily papers of his exhibits, arranged in a clever manner at one end of the big show arena, the real Orpington boom in the United States and Canada was launched, As an advance agent, William Cook was in a class by himself; as a salesman he was a star, the prices realized by him for Orpingtons at that memorable show being exceedingly high. The purchasers were men of wealth, as a rule, who realized that aside from the fancy end, it would be a good business investment as well. A study of the comparative growth in popularity of Orpingtons in D. E. Hale's article on another page of this book, will justify the judgment of these shrewd fanciers who bought at that time.

THE LATE WM. COOK,
Originator of the Orpington Fowl

Orpingtons First Exhibited in America in 1890

Single Comb Black Orpingtons were first exhibited at the show of the Massachusetts Poultry Association, held in Boston in 1890. Single Comb Buff Orpingtons were first exhibited at the Madison Square Garden Show, New York, in 1899, twelve single entries and one pen being the total. In 1901 the entries increased to nineteen single and